

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 IO-14 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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EO 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, TU

SUBJECT: POLITICAL COMMENTS FOLLOWING ECEVIT'S RESIGNATION

REF: ANKARA 7436

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING SEPTEMBER 18 RESIGNATION OF THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT (REFTEL), PRES KORUTURK HAS BEEN ENGAGED SEPT 18-19 IN REQUIRED CONSULTATIONS WITH PARTY AND PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS, WHO HAVE SINCE ISSUED STATEMENTS. LATTER COVER THREE SUBJECTS: (1) POSSIBLE PARTNERS FOR NEW GOVERNMENT COALITION, (2) PROSPECTS FOR EARLY ELECTIONS AND (3) INITIAL AIRING OF CAMPAIGN THEMES. END SUMMARY.

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1. ECEVIT HAS REMAINED PUBLICLY SILENT TODAY BUT THE LEADERS OF

OTHER PARTIES HAVE NOT. THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THEIR STATEMENTS.

2. ON FORMATION OF A GOVERNMENT: NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP) LEADER ERBAKAN PREDICTED FORMATION OF A JUSTICE PARTY (JP)-NSP-DEMOCRATIC PARTY (DP) COALITION WITH THE POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION OF THE REPUBLICAN RELIANCE PARTY (RRP). HE SAID FORMATION OF SUCH A COALITION WOULD NOT BE DIFFICULT AND THAT QUESTION OF COALITION LEADERSHIP WAS NOT IMPORTANT.

3. JP CHAIRMAN DEMIREL OPINED THAT A MINORITY GOVERNMENT COULD NOT SURVIVE, AND, COMMENTING ON ERBAKAN'S COALITION SUGGESTION, SAID THAT ONE PARTY ALONE COULD NOT DECIDE WHO WOULD BE IN THE COALITION. DP CHAIRMAN BOZBEYLI STATED HE HAD NO PREJUDICE AGAINST OR FOR JOINING A COALITION. RRP CHAIRMAN FEYZIOGLU DECLINED COMMENT, SAYING THAT ALL CONCERNED SHOULD MAKE EFFORTS FOR THE SOLUTION OF THE CRISIS.

4. PROSPECT OF EARLY ELECTIONS: ERBAKAN PREDICTED THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WOULD NOT AGREE TO EARLY ELECTIONS. DEMIREL SAID EARLY ELECTIONS WOULD BE MEANINGLESS UNLESS A MAJORITY GOVERNMENT EXISTED. HE ADDED BASING CREATION OF SUCH A MAJORITY GOVERNMENT ON POSSIBILITY OF EARLY ELECTION WOULD MAKE SOLUTION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL CRISIS MORE DIFFICULT. ON OTHER HAND BOZBEYLI SAID THAT EARLY ELECTIONS NOW APPEAR TO BE A DEMOCRATIC SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. FEYZIOGLU MADE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN IMMEDIATE (HIZLI) VERSUS EARLY (ERKEN) ELECTIONS. EARLY ELECTIONS, HE SAID COULD BE DISCUSSED UNDER NORMAL CONDITIONS, BUT "DRAGGING THE COUNTRY INTO AN ELECTION CAMPAIGN WHICH WOULD AGGRAVATE THE EXISTING PROBLEM" COULD NOT BE SUPPORTED. LIFE-SENATOR GROUP CHAIRMAN OZDILEK SAID THAT EARLY ELECTIONS COULD BE A SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS.

5. CAMPAIGN THEMES: ERBAKAN, IN A PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH KORUTURK SOUNDED WHAT WOULD APPEAR TO BE THE FIRST THEMES OF THE NSP CAMPAIGN. HE SAID THAT LEADERSHIP ON CYPRUS MATTERS SHOULD NOT BE LEFT TO ECEVIT, WHOSE "MENTALITY WAS SUCH THAT SOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM WOULD BE LEFT TO GREEK AND GREEK CYPRIOT INITIATIVE." HE STRESSED THE ROLE OF THE NSP IN THE DECISION TO INTERVENE IN CYPRUS, IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TIMING OF THE CEASE-FIRE, AND IN THE FORMULATION OF THE IDEA OF AN AUTONOMOUS, GEOGRAPHICALLY-BASED TURK CYPRIOT ADMINISTRATION.

ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT, ERBAKAN CRITICIZED ECEVIT FOR PUTTING POLITICS AHEAD OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, FOR PREVENTING FOUNDATION OF AN INDUSTRIAL BANK, AND FOR WANTING TO TEACH "GREEK MYTHOLOGY" IN ETHICS CLASSES. FURTHER, ERBAKAN CHARGED ECEVIT WITH DELAYING DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL AIRCRAFT

INDUSTRY THROUGH AN INSUFFICIENT UNDERSTANDING OF ITS COMPLEXITIES.

6. DEMIREL SOUNDED SOME OF THE SAME NOTES. HE ACCUSED ECEVIT OF STAGING THE GOVERNMENTAL CRISIS IN ORDER TO GIVE CREDIT FOR TURKEY'S SUCCESS ON CYPRUS TO "THE ASSETS COLUMN OF RPP ACCOUNT." DEMIREL ALSO INTRODUCED A "DO-NOTHING" THEME, SAYING THE OUTGOING GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT BE MISSED SINCE IT "HAD TACKLED NONE OF TURKEY'S PROBLEMS. ON THE CONTRARY IT HAS MADE LIFE EXPENSIVE, STOPPED INVESTMENTS AND PUSHED THE COUNTRY INTO DOMESTIC TROUBLES."

7. SINCE HIS RESIGNATION ECEVIT HAS MADE NO SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC COMMENT. HE IS OBVIOUSLY WAITING FOR THIS NECESSARY PERIOD OF PRESIDENTIAL CONSULTATIONS TO BE COMPLETED. HE KNOWS FROM HIS EARLIER, PRIVATE TALKS WITH PRESIDENT KORUTURK THAT HE WILL BE ASKED TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT. HIS NEXT ACTIONS AWAIT THE OUTCOME OF BOZBEYLI'S CURRENT CONSULTATIONS WITH THE DP RANK AND FILE.

8. WE WILL SUBMIT ANALYSIS OF DEVELOPING SITUATION ON SEPTEMBER 20.
MACOMBER

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